

Re: CG Docket No. 03-123
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Inspected

JUN 24 2009

FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Copps, Commissioners Adelstein and McDowell:

Video Relay Service has improved greatly because the FCC initiated a stable, predictable and fair three-year rate plan fifteen months ago. We understand that the FCC is inexplicably considering abruptly changing the VRS rate for the 2009-2010 rate year.

No. of Copies rec'd _____
List ABCDE _____

The FCC adopted the three-year rate methodology after 16 months of deliberation and considering thousands of pages of comments. Now the FCC is proposing to change the rate with just weeks for public comment.

VRS is succeeding - it is available to more in the Deaf community, service quality has improved, hold times have dropped, interpreter training and recruitment have expanded, and new videophones have been developed. The stable, fair and predictable three-year rate plan is critical to improving VRS and moving towards functionally equivalent telecommunications for the Deaf. The Deaf still do not have the functional equivalence mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act, but every improvement in VRS moves the Deaf closer to the fulfillment of that mandate. Why would the FCC suddenly, with virtually no notice, and only weeks for comment, undermine what has been working?

President Obama has correctly emphasized the importance of making broadband available to vulnerable populations like the Deaf community. Is it possible that the FCC at the same time, in defiance of the President's leadership on this issue, will undercut this vital broadband-based service to the Deaf?

I strongly urge the FCC to focus on how to improve VRS, not destroy it. It is simply not right to crush progress towards functional equivalence and tell Deaf people they deserve only second class telecommunications.

Sincerely,

Ellen Doyle
Memphis, TN

Received & Inspected

Dear FCC:

JUN 24 2009
FCC Mail Room

CG Docket 03-123

It is my understanding that the Federal Communications Commission is considering a change to Video Relay Service that would greatly discourage the investments that have improved VRS service, and delay even further the "functional equivalence" mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

VRS is a life altering technology for a deaf person. It allows communication in American Sign Language, the native language of a deaf person, over distance, something that no other technology allows. The passage of the provision in the Americans with Disabilities Act requiring functional equivalence was a landmark for improving the lives of deaf people. While VRS holds the promise of true functional equivalence, there is still much to be done to reach that goal, to improve VRS service and make it available to more deaf people.

The FCC provided a stable, predictable, and fair rate plan to VRS providers in 2007 that was to last for three years. At the time, the FCC stated clearly that one of the motivations behind the three year rate plan was to encourage providers to invest in better VRS service, better technology, and better interpreters. It is apparent to VRS users that VRS service is improving. Wait times for calls are shorter, videophones are substantially improved, 911 emergency service is now provided, individual telephone numbers are now available, and we understand that research is underway on technology that will improve VRS even more.

It is unthinkable to me that the FCC would intentionally hurt deaf people by undercutting VRS. Instead the FCC should be demanding more improvements in VRS. At a time when President Obama is insisting on the availability of broadband, particularly for vulnerable populations like the deaf, it is astonishing that the FCC would be heading in the opposite direction, cutting back on a broadband service like VRS that is absolutely essential to the deaf.

The FCC committed to a three year rate plan to improve VRS service, and it has worked. How can the FCC now suggest that it is going to renege on that commitment?

I urge you as strongly as I can not to shut down the investment and improvements in VRS, and instead to make better VRS available to more deaf people.

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

Sincerely,

Name Stacie Stott Street Address: 13730 HARTNER CT
City, State, Zip Code: WICHITA KANSAS 67235
E-mail Address: STACIEKNAUS@KOCHIND.COM

Received & Inspected

JUN 24 2009

Dear FCC:

FCC Mail Room

CG Docket No. 03-123

It is my understanding that the Federal Communications Commission is considering a change to Video Relay Service that would greatly discourage the investments that have improved VRS service, and delay even further the "functional equivalence" mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

VRS is a life altering technology for a deaf person. It allows us to communicate in American Sign Language, our native language, over distance, something that no other technology allows. The passage of the provision in the Americans with Disabilities Act requiring functional equivalence was a landmark for improving the lives of deaf people. While VRS holds the promise of true functional equivalence, there is still much to be done to reach that goal, to improve VRS service and make it available to more deaf people.

The FCC provided a stable, predictable, and fair rate plan to VRS providers in 2007 that was to last for three years. At the time, the FCC stated clearly that one of the motivations behind the three year rate plan was to encourage providers to invest in better VRS service, better technology, and better interpreters. It is apparent to VRS users that VRS service is improving. Wait times for calls are shorter, videophones are substantially improved, 911 emergency service is now provided, individual telephone numbers are now available, and we understand that research is underway on technology that will improve VRS even more.

It is unthinkable to me as a deaf person that the FCC would intentionally hurt deaf people by undercutting VRS. Instead the FCC should be demanding more improvements in VRS. At a time when President Obama is insisting on the availability of broadband, particularly for vulnerable populations like the deaf, it is astonishing that the FCC would be heading in the opposite direction, cutting back on a broadband service like VRS that is absolutely essential to the deaf.

The FCC committed to a three year rate plan to improve VRS service, and it has worked. How can the FCC now suggest that it is going to renege on that commitment?

I urge you as strongly as I cannot to shut down the investment and improvements in VRS, and instead to make better VRS available to more deaf people.

Sincerely,

Name Patrick H. Hays Street Address: 13770 Hardner Ct
City, State, Zip Code Wichita KS 67235
E-mail Address: _____

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

D

Received & Inspected

JUN 24 2009
FCC Mail Room

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123

Dear Chairman Copps, Commissioners Adelstein and McDowell:

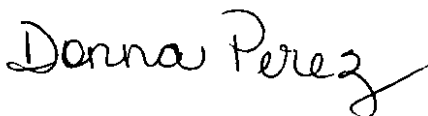
Video Relay Service has improved greatly because the FCC initiated a stable, predictable and fair three-year rate plan fifteen months ago. We understand that the FCC is inexplicably considering abruptly changing the VRS rate for the 2009 – 2010 rate year.

The FCC adopted the three-year rate methodology after 16 months of deliberation and considering thousands of pages of comments. Now, the FCC is proposing to change the rate with just weeks for public comment.

VRS is succeeding – it is available to more in the Deaf community, service quality has improved, hold times have dropped, interpreter training and recruitment have expanded, and new videophones have been developed. The stable, fair and predictable three-year rate plan is critical to improving VRS and moving towards functionally equivalent telecommunications for the Deaf. The Deaf still do not have the functional equivalence mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act, but every improvement in VRS moves the Deaf closer to the fulfillment of that mandate. Why would the FCC suddenly, with virtually no notice, and only weeks for comment, undermine what has been working? President Obama has correctly emphasized the importance of making broadband available to vulnerable populations like the Deaf community. Is it possible that the FCC at the same time, in defiance of the President's leadership on this issue, will undercut this vital broadband-based service to the Deaf?

I strongly urge the FCC to focus on how to improve VRS, not destroy it. It is simply not right to crush progress towards functional equivalence and tell Deaf people they deserve only second class telecommunications.

Sincerely,



Donna Perez

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

Friday, June 19, 2009

Received & Inspected

JUN 24 2009

FCC Mail Room

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

445 Twelfth Street SW

Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Copps, Commissioners Adelstein and McDowell:

Video Relay Service has improved greatly because the FCC initiated a stable, predictable and fair three-year rate plan fifteen months ago. We understand that the FCC is inexplicably considering abruptly changing the VRS rate for the 2009 – 2010 rate year.

The FCC adopted the three-year rate methodology after 16 months of deliberation and considering thousands of pages of comments. Now, the FCC is proposing to change the rate with just weeks for public comment.

VRS is succeeding – it is available to more in the Deaf community, service quality has improved, hold times have dropped, interpreter training and recruitment have expanded, and new videophones have been developed. The stable, fair and predictable three-year rate plan is critical to improving VRS and moving towards functionally equivalent telecommunications for the Deaf. The Deaf still do not have the functional equivalence mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act, but every improvement in VRS moves the Deaf closer to the fulfillment of that mandate. Why would the FCC suddenly, with virtually no notice, and only weeks for comment, undermine what has been working?

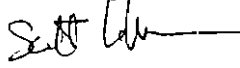
President Obama has correctly emphasized the importance of making broadband available to vulnerable populations like the Deaf community. Is it possible that the

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

FCC at the same time, in defiance of the President's leadership on this issue, will undercut this vital broadband-based service to the Deaf?

I strongly urge the FCC to focus on how to improve VRS, not destroy it. It is simply not right to crush progress towards functional equivalence and tell Deaf people they deserve only second class telecommunications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Lehmann", followed by a horizontal line.

Scott Lehmann

Received & Inspected

JUN 24 2009
FCC Mail Room

Friday, June 19, 2009

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

445 Twelfth Street SW

Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Copps, Commissioners Adelstein and McDowell:

Video Relay Service has improved greatly because the FCC initiated a stable, predictable and fair three-year rate plan fifteen months ago. We understand that the FCC is inexplicably considering abruptly changing the VRS rate for the 2009 – 2010 rate year.

The FCC adopted the three-year rate methodology after 16 months of deliberation and considering thousands of pages of comments. Now, the FCC is proposing to change the rate with just weeks for public comment.

VRS is succeeding – it is available to more in the Deaf community, service quality has improved, hold times have dropped, interpreter training and recruitment have expanded, and new videophones have been developed. The stable, fair and predictable three-year rate plan is critical to improving VRS and moving towards functionally equivalent telecommunications for the Deaf. The Deaf still do not have the functional equivalence mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act, but every improvement in VRS moves the Deaf closer to the fulfillment of that mandate. Why would the FCC suddenly, with virtually no notice, and only weeks for comment, undermine what has been working?

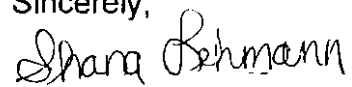
President Obama has correctly emphasized the importance of making broadband available to vulnerable populations like the Deaf community. Is it possible that the

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

FCC at the same time, in defiance of the President's leadership on this issue, will undercut this vital broadband-based service to the Deaf?

I strongly urge the FCC to focus on how to improve VRS, not destroy it. It is simply not right to crush progress towards functional equivalence and tell Deaf people they deserve only second class telecommunications.

Sincerely,



Shana Lehmann

No. of Copies rec'd _____
List ABCDE _____

Received & Inspected

JUN 24 2009

FCC Mail Room

6-18-09

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

445 Twelfth Street SW

Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Copps, Commissioners Adelstein and McDowell:

Video Relay Service has improved greatly because the FCC initiated a stable, predictable and fair three-year rate plan fifteen months ago. We understand that the FCC is inexplicably considering abruptly changing the VRS rate for the 2009 – 2010 rate year.

The FCC adopted the three-year rate methodology after 16 months of deliberation and considering thousands of pages of comments. Now, the FCC is proposing to change the rate with just weeks for public comment.


VRS is succeeding – it is available to more in the Deaf community, service quality has improved, hold times have dropped, interpreter training and recruitment have expanded, and new videophones have been developed. The stable, fair and predictable three-year rate plan is critical to improving VRS and moving towards functionally equivalent telecommunications for the Deaf. The Deaf still do not have the functional equivalence mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act, but every improvement in VRS moves the Deaf closer to the fulfillment of that mandate. Why would the FCC suddenly, with virtually no notice, and only weeks for comment, undermine what has been working?

President Obama has correctly emphasized the importance of making broadband available to vulnerable populations like the Deaf community. Is it possible that the FCC at the same time, in defiance of the President's leadership on this issue, will undercut this vital broadband-based service to the Deaf?

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

I strongly urge the FCC to focus on how to improve VRS, not destroy it. It is simply not right to crush progress towards functional equivalence and tell Deaf people they deserve only second class telecommunications.

Sincerely,


Shahryar Shilati

Received & Inspected

Friday, June 19, 2009

JUN 24 2009
FCC Mail Room

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Copps, Commissioners Adelstein and McDowell:

Video Relay Service has improved greatly because the FCC initiated a stable, predictable and fair three-year rate plan fifteen months ago. We understand that the FCC is inexplicably considering abruptly changing the VRS rate for the 2009 – 2010 rate year.

The FCC adopted the three-year rate methodology after 16 months of deliberation and considering thousands of pages of comments. Now, the FCC is proposing to change the rate with just weeks for public comment.

VRS is succeeding – it is available to more in the Deaf community, service quality has improved, hold times have dropped, interpreter training and recruitment have expanded, and new videophones have been developed. The stable, fair and predictable three-year rate plan is critical to improving VRS and moving towards functionally equivalent telecommunications for the Deaf. The Deaf still do not have the functional equivalence mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act, but every improvement in VRS moves the Deaf closer to the fulfillment of that mandate. Why would the FCC suddenly, with virtually no notice, and only weeks for comment, undermine what has been working?

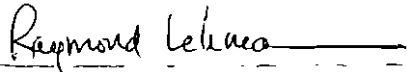
President Obama has correctly emphasized the importance of making broadband available to vulnerable populations like the Deaf community. Is it possible that the

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

FCC at the same time, in defiance of the President's leadership on this issue, will undercut this vital broadband-based service to the Deaf?

I strongly urge the FCC to focus on how to improve VRS, not destroy it. It is simply not right to crush progress towards functional equivalence and tell Deaf people they deserve only second class telecommunications.

Sincerely,

_____

Raymond Lehmann

June 18, 2009

RE CG Docket No 03-123
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Inspected

JUN 24 2009
FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Copps, Commissioners Adelstein and Mc Dowell,

Video Relay Service has improved greatly because the FCC initiated a stable, predictable and fair three years rate plan 15 months ago. We understand that the FCC is inexplicably considering abruptly changing the VRS rate for the 2009 – 2010 rate years.

The FCC adopted the three year rate methodology after 16 months of deliberation and considering thousands of pages of comments. Now, the FCC is proposing to change the rate with just weeks for public comment.

VRS is succeeding – it is available to more in the Deaf community, service quality has improved, hold times have dropped, interpreter training and recruitment have expanded, and new videophones have been developed. The stable, fair and predictable 3 year rate plan is critical to improved VRS and moving towards functionally equivalent telecommunications for the Deaf. The Deaf still do not have the functional equivalence mandated by the **Americans with Disabilities Act**, but every improvement in VRS moves the Deaf closer to the fulfillment of that mandate. Why would the FCC suddenly, with virtually no notice, and only weeks for comment, undermine what has been working?

President Obama has correctly emphasized the importance of making broadband available to available to vulnerable populations like the Deaf Community. Is it possible that the FCC at the same time, in defiance of the President's leadership on this issue, will undercut this vital broadband based service to the Deaf?

We strongly urge the FCC to focus on how to improve VRS, not destroy it. It is simply **not** right to crush progress towards functional equivalence and tell Deaf people (over million of deaf and hard of hearing people in this country) they deserve only second class telecommunications.

Sincerely,

Barbara Burbank

Frank W. Burbank



Frank & Barbara Burbank
338 Quaker Rd
Sidney, ME 04330-2317

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

Received & Inspected

JUN 24 2009

FCC Mail Room

Friday, June 19, 2009

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

445 Twelfth Street SW

Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Copps, Commissioners Adelstein and McDowell:

Video Relay Service has improved greatly because the FCC initiated a stable, predictable and fair three-year rate plan fifteen months ago. We understand that the FCC is inexplicably considering abruptly changing the VRS rate for the 2009 – 2010 rate year.

The FCC adopted the three-year rate methodology after 16 months of deliberation and considering thousands of pages of comments. Now, the FCC is proposing to change the rate with just weeks for public comment.

VRS is succeeding – it is available to more in the Deaf community, service quality has improved, hold times have dropped, interpreter training and recruitment have expanded, and new videophones have been developed. The stable, fair and predictable three-year rate plan is critical to improving VRS and moving towards functionally equivalent telecommunications for the Deaf. The Deaf still do not have the functional equivalence mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act, but every improvement in VRS moves the Deaf closer to the fulfillment of that mandate. Why would the FCC suddenly, with virtually no notice, and only weeks for comment, undermine what has been working?

President Obama has correctly emphasized the importance of making broadband available to vulnerable populations like the Deaf community. Is it possible that the

No. of Copies rec'd _____
List: ABCDE _____

0

FCC at the same time, in defiance of the President's leadership on this issue, will undercut this vital broadband-based service to the Deaf?

I strongly urge the FCC to focus on how to improve VRS, not destroy it. It is simply not right to crush progress towards functional equivalence and tell Deaf people they deserve only second class telecommunications.

Sincerely,


Adora Lehmann

Received & Inspected

JUN 24 2009
FCC Mail Room

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

1. Dear Chairman Copps, Commissioners Adelstein and McDowell:

Video Relay Service has improved greatly because the FCC initiated a stable, predictable and fair three-year rate plan fifteen months ago. We understand that the FCC is inexplicably considering abruptly changing the VRS rate for the 2009 – 2010 rate year.

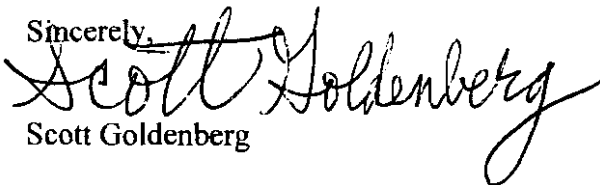
The FCC adopted the three-year rate methodology after 16 months of deliberation and considering thousands of pages of comments. Now, the FCC is proposing to change the rate with just weeks for public comment.

VRS is succeeding -- it is available to more in the Deaf community, service quality has improved, hold times have dropped, interpreter training and recruitment have expanded, and new videophones have been developed. The stable, fair and predictable three-year rate plan is critical to improving VRS and moving towards functionally equivalent telecommunications for the Deaf. The Deaf still do not have the functional equivalence mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act, but every improvement in VRS moves the Deaf closer to the fulfillment of that mandate. Why would the FCC suddenly, with virtually no notice, and only weeks for comment, undermine what has been working?

President Obama has correctly emphasized the importance of making broadband available to vulnerable populations like the Deaf community. Is it possible that the FCC at the same time, in defiance of the President's leadership on this issue, will undercut this vital broadband-based service to the Deaf?

I strongly urge the FCC to focus on how to improve VRS, not destroy it. It is simply not right to crush progress towards functional equivalence and tell Deaf people they deserve only second class telecommunications.

Sincerely,


Scott Goldenberg

No. of Copies rec'd _____
List ABCDE _____

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123
Federal Communication Commission (FCC)
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Inspected
JUN 24 2009
FCC Mail Room

June 19, 2009

Dear Chairman Copps, Commissioners Adelstein and McDowell

Video Relay Service has improved greatly because the FCC initiated a stable, predictable and fair three-year rate plan fifteen months ago. We understand that the FCC is inexplicably considering abruptly changing the VRS rate for the 2009-2010 rate year.

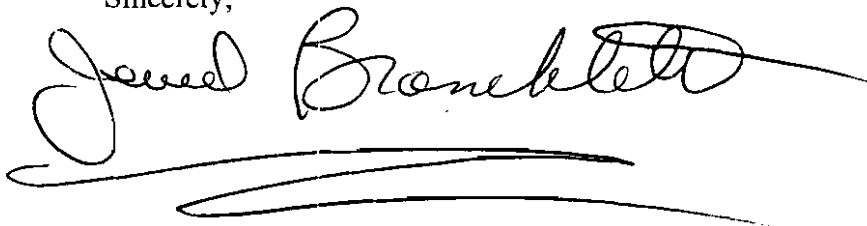
The FCC adopted the three-year rate methodology after 16 months of deliberation and considering thousands of pages of comments. Now, the FCC is proposing to change the rate with just weeks for public comment.

VRS is succeeding- it is available to more in the Deaf community, service quality has improved, hold times have dropped, interpreter training and recruitment have expanded, and new videophones have been developed. The stable, fair and predictable three-year rate plan is critical to improving VRS and moving towards functionally equivalent telecommunications for the Deaf. The Deaf still do have the functional equivalence mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act, but every improvement in VRS moves the Deaf closer to the fulfillment of that mandate. Why would the FCC suddenly, with virtually no notice, and only weeks for comment, undermine what has been working?

President Obama has correctly emphasized the importance of making broadband available to vulnerable populations like the Deaf community. Is it possible that the FCC at the same time, in defiance of the President's leadership on this issue, will undercut this vital broadband-based service to the Deaf?

I strongly urge the FCC to focus on how to improve VRS, not destroy it. It is simply not right to crush progress towards functional equivalence and tell Deaf people they deserve only second class telecommunications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Brinkley", with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

Received & Inspected

June 17, 2009

JUN 24 2009
FCC Mail Room

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

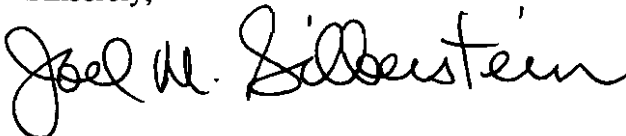
Dear Chairman Copps, Commissioners Adelstein and McDowell:

Video Relay Service has improved greatly because the FCC initiated a stable, predictable and fair three-year rate plan fifteen months ago. We understand that the FCC is inexplicably considering abruptly changing the VRS rate for the 2009 – 2010 rate year. The FCC adopted the three-year rate methodology after 16 months of deliberation and considering thousands of pages of comments. Now, the FCC is proposing to change the rate with just weeks for public comment.

VRS is succeeding – it is available to more in the Deaf community, service quality has improved, hold times have dropped, interpreter training and recruitment have expanded, and new videophones have been developed. The stable, fair and predictable three-year rate plan is critical to improving VRS and moving towards functionally equivalent telecommunications for the Deaf. The Deaf still do not have the functional equivalence mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act, but every improvement in VRS moves the Deaf closer to the fulfillment of that mandate. Why would the FCC suddenly, with virtually no notice, and only weeks for comment, undermine what has been working? President Obama has correctly emphasized the importance of making broadband available to vulnerable populations like the Deaf community. Is it possible that the FCC at the same time, in defiance of the President's leadership on this issue, will undercut this vital broadband-based service to the Deaf?

I strongly urge the FCC to focus on how to improve VRS, not destroy it. It is simply not right to crush progress towards functional equivalence and tell Deaf people they deserve only second class telecommunications.

Sincerely,



Joel M. Silberstein
President
Palm Beach County Association of the Deaf
P.O. Box 5797
Lake Worth, FL 33461

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE